

firm that assisted in public relations, dispute resolution, grant writing, program development, and more. And from 1995 to 1998, John even served as Deputy Chief of Police for the Richmond, Virginia Police Department. After returning to California, John worked for Southern California Edison from 2004 to 2011 as Director of Special Projects, and from 2011 to 2013, he was the Senior Vice President for the Los Angeles Urban League, where he helped to fundraise and connect all levels of government with important policy issues affecting the local area.

John was a well-regarded leader among his constituents, peers, and elected representatives from every level of government. Prior to his election to the city council, John worked for the City of Pasadena in several capacities, including in the Finance, City Attorney, Police, and Public Works Departments. With a clear and unyielding passion for giving back to the city that raised him, John was elected to the Pasadena City Council in 2013 to represent District 3, which he served tirelessly until his death. In his nearly three terms on the city council, John served as Vice Mayor, Chair of the Public Safety Committee, served on the Finance Committee, and was one of three city representatives to represent Pasadena on the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority.

John's powerful commitment to helping those around him defined his many accomplishments as an elected official. Particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, John stepped up to assist those who needed it most. In fact, during the peak of the pandemic John secured 60,000 face masks for the City of Pasadena, ensuring that city staff and residents would not experience any potential shortage. He also fought hard to establish local grants that were crucial in helping many small businesses keep their doors open. And John even continued his annual tradition of providing families with thousands of Thanksgiving turkeys and Christmas hams at a time of crisis and need.

Despite the immense challenges of the pandemic, John was able to spearhead the creation of the Pasadena Police Oversight Commission, one of the most important accomplishments the City of Pasadena has achieved. This was an effort John had championed for six years that started with no support. And yet despite countless objections and hurdles along the way, John persevered, advocated, built coalitions, and ultimately succeeded in gaining the votes necessary to establish the commission.

John was also a longtime advocate for increasing affordable housing throughout Pasadena. In 2020, John pushed the City of Pasadena to set an ambitious goal of building 1,000 units in 1,000 days. And because of his leadership, the city broke ground on a new housing project called Pasadena Studios, which will consist of 180 all-affordable units. Outside of affordable housing efforts, John was also an ardent supporter of several other projects to improve some of Pasadena's landmark facilities and institutions, including advocating for \$20 million for Robinson Park, fighting relentlessly for \$11 million towards the Playhouse Village Park, and supporting Measure J which transferred approximately \$8 million a year to the Pasadena Unified School District.

John always recognized that Pasadena's success was built by the hard work and sacrifice of our predecessors, many of whom

were African Americans, Chinese Americans, Mexican Americans, Japanese Americans, and countless others from different backgrounds. Because he wanted to ensure that future residents of Pasadena were aware of its history, he fought hard to establish a monument that recognized this fact. And after months of hard work, along with the support of community members and organizations, the City of Pasadena erected a monument dedicated to minority residents and their incredible contributions to this city. This monument will serve to honor not only the unquantifiable contributions of these communities but will memorialize the honorable efforts of John himself.

John's love for Pasadena and Pasadenans guided his public service as he strove every day to make it better for everyone. It is certain that he did just that. It was an honor to work with him and call him a friend. I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the life of this extraordinary individual.

#### HONORING NESTOR RODRIGUEZ FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

#### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2022*

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Nestor Rodriguez was born in 1970 in Manhattan, New York. After his birth, his family relocated to Puerto Rico where he lived until the age of 18.

In 1988, he joined the U.S. Army and served as an infantryman until May of 1992. He then moved to Miami to pursue his education. He joined the Florida Army National Guard and served as an active guard reserve from 1992 to 2012. During this time, he participated in many hurricane and disaster relief efforts including for Hurricane Andrew in 1992. In 1999, he and his family relocated to Orlando where he finished his active-duty career with the Florida National Guard.

Then, he was deployed to Iraq from 2003 to 2004 where he served as an infantry squad leader in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Upon his return from Iraq, he continued to pursue his education while still serving the State of Florida Army National Guard and raising three children with his wife Elizabeth. In 2005, his unit was assigned to do hurricane relief duties during Hurricane Charlie, which hit Osceola and Orange Counties hard.

In July of 2012, Mr. Rodriguez began a new chapter in his life by becoming an Orlando VA employee where he started his career as a clerk, then a program support assistant, then a provider outreach coordinator. Currently, he is the veteran outreach coordinator and minority veteran program coordinator. In 2013, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration with a minor in management from Columbia College of Missouri's Orlando campus. In 2015, he graduated with a master's degree in pastoral psychology from Professional Christian University in Kissimmee.

To date, he is still serving the veteran community by providing resources to the veteran population.

HONORING 82ND AIRBORNE HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE LIEUTENANT GENERAL RAYMOND MASON FOR HIS VALOROUS SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

#### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2022*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant General Raymond Mason for his induction into the 82nd Airborne Division's Hall of Fame on September 28, 2022.

The 82nd Airborne Division's Hall of Fame began in 2018 to honor the division's 101 years of legendary service and its members. It honors veteran paratroopers who are nominated for their service within the division, their commitment to the division's values, their contributions to their chosen field outside of their division, or any other valorous combat actions.

A brief look at Lt. Gen. Mason's career accomplishments only begins to adequately describe the importance of his military service. Serving in the 82nd Airborne Division for 15 years from 1983 through 1998, Lt. Gen. Mason commanded both Company E, 407th Supply and Services Battalion and the 407th Support Battalion. He also held numerous positions in the division where he provided important logistical support that greatly advanced operational possibilities for combat commanders. Specifically, he served as the division support command operation officer for Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada and both the assistant chief of staff and deputy chief of staff for the U.S. Forces Command and the Army. In addition to his accomplishments with the 82nd Airborne Division, he provided dutiful leadership and service in other units and positions until his retirement in 2014. Even in retirement, Lt. Gen. Mason has continued to serve our military as the director of the Army Emergency Relief Fund, a nonprofit organization that provides support to the Army.

In the words of the former commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, Gen. Erik Kurilla, "the All American Hall of Fame is about preserving our legacy and paying homage to our All American Legends." Lt. Gen. Mason's selfless service could not be more deserving of such recognition. I know I speak for all in our community and nation in thanking Lt. Gen. Mason for his committed service and leadership in the 82nd Airborne Division and our nation's military more broadly.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring and congratulating Lieutenant General Mason for his induction into the 82nd Airborne Division's Hall of Fame.

#### HONORING GEAR UP WEEK

#### HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2022*

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the week of September 26-30, 2022, as National GEAR UP Week at Ysleta Independent School District in El Paso, Texas.

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a federally-funded grant program designed to prepare first-generation and low-income students

to be college-ready and have the resources to successfully complete their post-secondary education.

In El Paso, the GEAR UP-Proyecto to M.A.S. (Motivating Aspiring Scholars) is a partnership between the Ysleta Independent School District and the University of Texas at El Paso. The program currently serves 3,400 students through tutoring, mentoring, financial education, and college visits to ensure readiness and awareness of higher education opportunities.

As a former educator myself, I know that programs like GEAR UP are essential to communities like mine where over 80% of our population is Latino. Many of our students come from families where they will be the first in their family to go to college. I am so proud of the tremendous impact GEAR UP makes in the lives of young El Pasoans through its tools made available to our communities.

I am grateful to the educators and families who work tirelessly to support our youth, I applaud all the students who have immersed themselves in this program and express my best wishes and hopes for their success.

#### RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF THE SUNCOAST

##### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2022*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of the Suncoast. Their tireless work is being recognized this week when they will be named the Highest Performing Board Team of the Year. Board Chair Jeff Tanzer, Vice Chair Kyle Barr, Vice Chair Rolfe Duggar, Esq., Vice Chair Christie Sullivan, Esq., Vice Chair Beth Homer, Esq., Treasurer Danielle Cartier Wendt, CPA, Secretary Elizabeth Constantine, Esq., Immediate Past Chair Angela Wright, and Past Chair Doug Lewis have all excelled to make our local Boys and Girls Club worthy of this designation.

The mission of the Boys and Girls Club of the Suncoast is to provide high quality, out of school time Club experiences that proven to ensure our young people are on track to graduate from high school with a plan, demonstrate good character and citizenship, and live a healthy lifestyle. With over 21,000 kids and teens served and a 96 percent graduation rate among High School Seniors that are club members, the Club supports the next generation of community members that can make a positive impact. I have been proud to support their tremendous efforts during my time in Congress and look forward to their continued success.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL A. JOHNSON

##### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2022*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who has served

as a distinguished community leader from a young age and has continued to enrich future generations as a Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Scoutmaster for the past 37 years, Michael A. Johnson. Recently, Michael was awarded the Book of Golden Deeds Award by the Exchange Club of Albany in May 2022 for his exemplary record of community service and improvement, volunteering, and improving the lives of young people. His retirement as Scoutmaster for St. Teresa's Catholic Church Troop 3 will be celebrated on October 9, 2022 at three o'clock p.m. at the church's school cafeteria in Albany, Georgia.

Born into an Air Force family by the union of Michael and Marcia Johnson, Michael moved to Southwest Georgia when his father was transferred to Albany in 1971. He began his Scouting journey as a young boy in the Cub Scouts and in 1971 joined as a Boy Scout in St. Teresa's Catholic Church Troup 3 where he would earn several awards and distinctions. Additionally, Michael attended high school in Albany and went on to earn a degree in Architecture from Auburn University.

After achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in 1977, Michael continued his servant leadership within the Scouting community by serving as a Troop 3 Assistant Scoutmaster from 1985 to 1990, and then as Scoutmaster in 1990, a position he still holds today. Throughout his life in Scouting, he has been revered as a steadfast mentor and positive influence on the hundreds of young people who have passed through his troop. It was important to Michael that all Scouts had the opportunity to experience trips to BSA's National Jamborees, summer camps, and other high adventures activities, and he personally made sure that funding was never an issue for them to attend. And notably, of the 194 Eagle Scouts from Troop 3, 145 achieved the rank under Michael's leadership, affirming his record of dedication to each of these young people as they completed service projects to improve their neighborhoods and the greater community.

Michael demonstrates impeccable community leadership in so many ways. He currently serves as a Leader in Boy Scouts of America's South Georgia Council, which is comprised of 28 counties in the region. As the Vice President of Properties for the South Georgia Council, he spearheaded the efforts to restore the Council's 2 Scout camps following damage sustained by three tornadoes and a hurricane in 2017 and 2018. He also leads by example by participating in many community service projects, such as Flint River Cleanups with Keep Albany-Dougherty Beautiful; food drives to support St. Clare's Neighbors in Need; Christmas tree recycling with the YMCA and the City of Albany; parking cars for Phoebe events; and supporting the Exchange Club's car shows. But his dedication goes beyond community service and mentoring youth and young professionals; Michael's strong faith in God led him to contribute greatly to the spiritual development of countless young men and women. As Scoutmaster, he initiated a program that dedicates at least one weekly meeting each month for Scouts to work toward religious awards appropriate for their age and denominations.

It is because of Michael's commitment to his Scouts and the betterment of his community that he has been recognized with numerous awards and distinctions. As a Cub Scout, he earned the Arrow of Light rank—the only Cub

Scout award that can be worn once a Scout enters Boy Scouts. While a Boy Scout, he achieved membership in the Immokalee Lodge, Order of the Arrow, and the Ad Altare Dei religious award, as well as earning the rank of Eagle Scout. As an adult, Michael received BSA's District Award of Merit; has been awarded the St. George Religious Emblem for his service to youth; was honored by the Blue Angels as one of their Hometown Heroes; the Silver Beaver; Outstanding Eagle recognition; and most recently, the Book of Golden Deeds Award, which is the most prestigious award presented by the Albany Exchange Club.

Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisolm once said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Michael has paid his rent many times over and continues to give back to the community that raised him. As a member of the American Cancer Society, he was a Captain on the American Cancer Relay for Life Team, a member of the Albany Clean Community Commission and American Institute of Architects. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus Lodge Number 3607 and attends St. Teresa's Catholic Church in Albany.

Michael has served countless people and accomplished many things throughout his life, but none of these could have been possible without his faith, the love and support of his wife of 36 years, Linda, and their four children—Patrick, Ivy, Hope, and Grant. Being a family rooted in community involvement, Linda Johnson was for many years an elementary school teacher and now serves as the Assistant Principal at St. Teresa's school, while both Patrick and Grant have earned the rank of Eagle Scout, following in their father's footsteps.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Michael A. Johnson upon the occasion of his retirement from his over three decades of service to the community through Scouting, youth mentoring, and servant leadership, all of which has improved the lives of so many.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE PRO- MOTING NATIONAL SERVICE AND REDUCING YOUTH UNEMPLOY- MENT ACT

##### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2022*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Promoting National Service and Reducing Youth Unemployment Act to address one of the greatest workforce tragedies—our unemployed young people—while filling the employment gap the public sector is facing as more workers choose the private sector. Youth unemployment is harming our young people and costing our country billions of dollars each year in lost productivity and tax revenue, among other costs. Although the total unemployment rate has reached a relative low (3.7 percent), the youth unemployment rate is nearly 7.9 percent. These young people have not had a fair chance to use the high school or college education we strongly urged them to obtain.